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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NQ.

OUNTRY

Hungary

DATE DISTR.

5 April 1555

SUBJECT

Maganese Mine near Urkut

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

- 1. In June 1954, there was a manganese mine near Urkut (P 48/D 58), about 20 km.west of Veszprem, south of the Ajka-Szentgál highway. The installation which was in hilly and wooded terrain, included an open-mine site, three underground mines, a manganese-washing plant, a laboratory, and a technical bureau. An administration building, garages, a fire station, and repair shops were also available. The installation had railroad connections. Two of the mines were connected by a cebla railway about 200 meters long.
- 2. The mine was subordinate to the Ore Hines Department of the Hinistry of Heavy Industry. It was founded in the 1920's; during WW II it was exploited by a company which was partly controlled by German interests. In 1952, the installation was returned to Hungarian property by the Soviets. A reasting plant was under construction in Hay 1954. The construction of an aerial cableway to the manganese mine at Ajka was planned. The 1954 production target was fixed at 250,000 tons of manganese ore. By 7 June 1954, the monthly production target was fulfilled only 70 percent. The ore mined was shipped by rail to Ozd or to Czechoslovakia. In Harch 1954, production at one mine was interrupted for more than three months because the mine was flooded by vater from rapidly thewing snow.
- 5. The manganese mine was managed by mine superintendent Hartin Rieger, about 35 years old, an efficient expert, and a Bulgarian with the name of R. Trajan Gogriff. The latter was about 45 years old and a graduate from Szeged University. In June 1954, the mine employed about 100 persons who worked in three shifts. Hining activities were mostly mechanised.

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